



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Affirmative action backed

Joseph Lieberman, Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore's running mate, allayed the concerns of some black leaders Tuesday by telling them he supports affirmative action. In the past, Lieberman has been skeptical of what he has called racial quotas.

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson told a cheering crowd at the Democratic convention that "Gore ended the quota of zero Jewish Americans on the national ticket last week. This was a bold act of affirmative action."

### Radio caller threatens Lieberman

A caller to a radio show was charged with making a death threat over the airwaves against Democratic vice presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman.

The suspect, Lawrence Franco, 23, told "The Howard Stern Show" on Monday morning that the Connecticut senator "is gonna take my bullet."

### Israeli-Palestinian talks resume

Israeli-Palestinian talks resumed at their highest level since the breakdown of the Camp David summit last month. The two sides met to discuss the possibility of holding another summit.

Wednesday's meeting came one day before the scheduled arrival of U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross, who will see if a new summit is warranted.

In a related development, Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon said at a special Knesset session Tuesday that Prime Minister Ehud Barak lacked the political backing to negotiate with the Palestinian Authority. The legislators agreed to hold another session later this month to debate a resolution that would make illegal any attempt by Barak to hold another summit without first having new elections.

### ADL slams anti-Semitic editorial

The Anti-Defamation League accused the chairman of an African American newspaper in New York of being an anti-Semite after he wrote in an editorial that Jews bought Joseph Lieberman's candidacy as Al Gore's running mate.

The "insidious" assertion of William Tatum in the *Amsterdam News* is an "anti-Semitic canard employed by anti-Semites, racists and conspiracy theorists through the centuries," the ADL charged.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### World tells touring Arafat: 'Go back and talk to Israel'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's globetrotting has not paid off.

Following the collapse of the Camp David summit, Arafat traveled to some 20 countries to drum up support for his making a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state. But the message he got from Europe's capitals, and from Moscow and Beijing as well, was essentially the same: Go back to the negotiating table with Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Nor was the message any different in most of the Arab states Arafat visited in hopes of shoring up support. Palestinian statehood, he was told, should emerge as a result of an agreement with Israel. No wonder, then, that there has been growing talk this week of another Barak-Arafat summit.

Barak's security adviser, Danny Yatom, spoke Monday about the possibility of another U.S.-sponsored summit. He said President Clinton would likely "decide on the fate of another summit" after U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross visits the region in the coming days. Israel's acting foreign minister, Shlomo Ben-Ami, also discussed the possibility of a summit, saying Monday that it could be held sometime in September, depending on how the two sides' discussions progress before then.

Ben-Ami made the comment while visiting Italy, his latest stop on a tour of European nations to present the Israeli side following the collapse of the Camp David summit. Not to be outdone by Arafat's crisscrossing of the globe, Barak recently dispatched several ministers and advisers to present Israel's case to the world.

In addition to Ben-Ami, ministers Shimon Peres, Yossi Beilin and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak reminded world leaders of the concessions Barak had been willing to make at Camp David. They also portrayed Arafat — as Clinton had done in the summit's immediate aftermath — as the one who had been unwilling to go the necessary extra mile for peace.

For his part, Yatom went on a mission to the Persian Gulf, where he met with the foreign ministers of Bahrain and Oman.

Clinton, meanwhile, is reportedly willing to host another summit, but only if the two sides are ready to settle all the outstanding issues — particularly the fate of Jerusalem, which by all accounts was what led to the failure of the previous summit.

As Ben-Ami said this week, "This time we cannot risk another failure."

Of all the world leaders Arafat has met with in recent days, the one with perhaps the most influence on his thinking is Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Arafat needs Mubarak's backing for whatever steps he is about to take, and Mubarak gave a strong indication Sunday that the Palestinian leader would postpone a unilateral declaration of statehood.

Mubarak also ruled out the possibility of any Palestinian concessions regarding the status of Jerusalem, saying the city is "Arab land and no one can retreat on this issue."

Just the same, there are those who believe that Mubarak may be more flexible.

Israel Television's Arab affairs analyst, Ehud Ya'ari, reported this week that Mubarak is developing a proposal on Jerusalem.

According to Ya'ari, Mubarak has suggested that Israel and the Palestinians should reach an agreement that would leave open the question of sovereignty in Jerusalem.

American pressure has apparently made Mubarak more amenable to making

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Troops kill Palestinian man

Israeli troops in the West Bank shot and killed a 73-year-old Palestinian man after he opened fire on them. The shooting near Ramallah took place after the man apparently mistook the soldiers for burglars.

### Peres seeks Chinese support

Shimon Peres, Israel's regional development minister, said in Beijing that he wants to raise support for the Middle East peace process.

Peres arrived several days after Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, who is trying to drum up support for the Palestinian position.

### Police probe arson attacks

Israeli police are investigating whether fervently Orthodox Jews are behind seven suspected arsons at sex shops, escort services and brothels during the last week. In the latest fire, four women died in a pre-dawn blaze at a Tel Aviv apartment house.

### Work begins on Gaza seaport

Groundbreaking began Tuesday for a new seaport serving the Gaza Strip.

The \$70 million project, which Israel agreed to in deals with the Palestinian Authority, is expected to be completed in 18 months.

### Baseball giant's son tours Israel

The son of the first black baseball player in the major leagues was in Israel this week to learn about solar energy. David Robinson, the son of Jackie Robinson, lives on a farm in Tanzania and raises coffee beans.

He and his business partner, Irving Schatz, hope to import solar energy equipment to Tanzania. While visiting Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Robinson said, "I have tremendous respect for the Jews of Israel, who have returned to their homeland and have had tremendous success in building a secure country."



## Daily News Bulletin

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concessions where Jerusalem is concerned.

Following the failure of the Camp David summit, Clinton did not hide his disappointment with Mubarak's failure to contribute to the talks' success.

For its part, the Egyptian press was up in arms after New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wrote a recent column in the form of an open — and very angry — letter from Clinton to Mubarak.

The fictitious letter questioned Mubarak's friendship with the United States and blamed Egypt for not appreciating the billions in American aid it gets.

The Egyptian press went ballistic.

The United States, with its 200 years of history, cannot lecture Egypt, with its 5,000 years of history, wrote one columnist. But last week, when spirits cooled, the Egyptians realized that Clinton can indeed lecture, given those billions Egypt receives in U.S. aid.

"Egypt is a country with two hearts that beat simultaneously," said Ya'ari. One heart belongs to Gamal Abdel Nasser, the nationalist president of the 1950s and 1960s, and the other to Anwar Sadat, the pragmatic Western-oriented peacemaker, he said.

"Recently the Americans heard Nasser's heart beating stronger, but after a little pressure, Sadat's heart is taking over," Ya'ari said.

Assuming there is another summit, Israeli officials are already making it clear that Arafat will have to settle for whatever he was offered at Camp David.

"Barak has gone as far as he can go," Yatom said this week.

Given such comments, at least one Palestinian analyst is already anticipating another deadlock. "If Premier Ehud Barak does not give up on Israeli sovereignty on the Temple Mount," said Khalil Shkaki, head of the Palestinian Center for Political Studies, "Arafat will go ahead and declare a Palestinian state unilaterally." □

## Lieberman worries Arab Americans, but leaders say he's not all that bad

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — What Arab Americans say they most want from the Democratic ticket is some respect for their concerns and their voting power in key states.

In particular, they want reassurances from vice presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman that his Jewish identity will not tilt U.S. policy more strongly against Arab positions in the Middle East. "There is a deep concern in our community about how the election of Al Gore and Lieberman would affect the peace process," said James Zogby, president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute.

Zogby hosted a record 52 Arab American delegates to the Democratic National Convention at a festive "Meet Us at the Casbah" bash Tuesday night.

"The main question we want answered is how Lieberman stands on the Middle East," said Ismael Ahmed, executive director of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in the Detroit area, which is home to the largest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States. "He should meet with our people and clearly explain where he stands."

Ahmed, a member of the Michigan delegation, has been hearing from members of his community since Gore chose Lieberman as his running mate. Some see a Zionist conspiracy to take over the U.S. government.

Concerns are heightened, said Ahmed, by the perception in his community that Gore would be a more pro-Israel president than President Clinton.

Both Ahmed and Zogby said they have been telling their constituents that what they know about Lieberman is not all bad.

There are about 3.5 million Arab Americans in the United States who are keenly aware that they cannot match the clout of the 6 million-strong Jewish community.

As is true for Jews, Arab voting strength is concentrated in a few key states. Foremost is Michigan, where Arab Americans represent 5 percent of the vote.

In that state, consumer advocate Ralph Nader is receiving 11 percent of the vote, and if enough Arab Americans vote for Nader, the state, crucial to Democratic hopes, could go into the Republican column. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Senator won't stump on holidays

Democratic vice presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman announced he will not campaign during the High Holidays or on the holy days of Sukkot.

"I'm just going to do what I've always done and work extra hard on the days that I'm campaigning," he told The Associated Press.

### Germany urged to stem racism

Israel's new president called on Germany to fight back against a recent spate of neo-Nazi violence.

In an interview with the German daily Bild, Moshe Katsav said Germany has a special responsibility to fight "such inhuman attitudes."

### Birthright planning winter trips

The Birthright Israel program plans to send 7,500 young Jews to Israel this winter.

The free 10-day trips, which will begin in December and January, are open to any Jewish adult between 18 and 26 who has never been to Israel as part of an educational program.

Those interested in registering can contact the organization at [www.birthrightisrael.com](http://www.birthrightisrael.com) before the Oct. 5 deadline.

### Court blocks neo-Nazi plans

A Berlin court upheld a police ban on a far-right demonstration planned for Saturday to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Hitler deputy Rudolf Hess.

The court said Wednesday that the demonstrators would have praised Hess and displayed Nazi symbols, which are banned in Germany.

### Panel sought for Yahoo! case

A French court asked that Yahoo! Inc. and anti-racist groups help appoint an expert panel to determine whether the company can block French Web users from accessing its U.S. auction sites where Nazi objects are sold.

Anti-racist groups argue national laws should also apply to the Web and therefore the French ban on the exhibition, sale and trading of items related to or glorifying Nazi Germany should be enforced.

The court said it would next hold a hearing Nov. 6, after the three-member panel presents its findings.

### AJ Committee creates relief fund

The American Jewish Committee created a \$2 million endowment fund for humanitarian relief.

The fund was established by a couple, Robert and Harriet Heilbrunn, who recently spearheaded the organization's relief efforts in Turkey and Kosovo, and for Lebanese refugees in northern Israel.

## Jewish protesters and supporters add color to Buchanan bid for president

By Eric Roth

*Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Standing alone next to a yellow sign with black letters warning, "Buchanan is the Fourth Reich," Bob Kunst, president of Shalom International, becomes a magnet for heated emotions on the sidewalk outside Long Beach's Convention Center last Friday.

His smaller signs read: "No More Holocausts" and "Never Again."

"Buchanan represents the extreme right wing," explains Kunst, who traveled from Miami to Long Beach to protest Buchanan. "He represents the trivialization of the Holocaust, defends Nazi war criminals and apologizes for the Nazi collaborator Pope Pius XII."

Listening with disbelief and obvious displeasure, Duncan Halliburton, a muscular man dressed in a "Marines: The Tough Team" T-shirt, counters, "He's espousing a falsehood that Pat is a Nazi and wants to start a new Holocaust against the Jews. Pat's issues are NAFTA, GATT, illegal immigration and shipping off jobs."

A TV cameraman captures the brief screaming match.

"There are lots of anti-Semites and Nazis in America," yells Kunst, a wiry Jewish activist whose group has "done 150 anti-Nazi events in the last 10 years."

"Nobody spins better than Buchanan," says Kunst, a 50-something who protested outside Camp David during the Mideast summit to keep Jerusalem undivided. "Look at Buchanan's history of hate. I spoke to a Texas delegate who denied the Holocaust happened."

Two Youth for Buchanan volunteers watch, apparently mystified. "Pat is an honest guy addressing important issues to the future of America," says Jeff Wells, 20, of Northern California. "He's been totally mischaracterized and demonized. Pat cares about all Americans."

Inside the convention center lobby, activists lined the hall with tables for a wide variety of political causes — ranging from abolishing the World Trade Organization, ending trade with China and protecting the Second Amendment to banning abortion, ending illegal immigration and reforming election laws to ban corporate political action committees. Amid this sea of political speech, it was easy to overlook the Americans for Buchanan newspaper dated July 24, 2000.

One article, titled "Buchanan Anti-Semitic" says "If, because of his foreign policy views, Pat Buchanan is an 'anti-Semite' as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith and others have claimed, Buchanan is in rather distinguished company."

The article proceeds to list 26 prominent elected officials, including President Nixon, Secretary of State James Baker, whom the ADL has at times protested.

Buried inside the publication was a full-page article titled "George Bush and Al Gore: What's the Difference?" Arguing that a small group of elite advisers "share the core principle of 'Israel First,'" the article claims that the "rogue states rollback" means "undeclared warfare and even genocide against Islamic nations that refuse to recognize and bow to Israeli hegemony."

The solution: Vote Buchanan.

An ad for an anti-Semitic paper, called The Spotlight, runs on page 11.

Sitting behind the table for the California Council for Immigration Reform, Evelyn Miller, a retired Los Angeles schoolteacher, says the support of mainstream Jewish organizations for "open borders" is partially responsible for contemporary anti-Semitism.

"Working with the immigration reform movement, I've encountered my share of bigots. They exist in every movement," begins Miller, a Jewish activist living in Orange County. "Most people don't want illegal immigrants. But all our Jewish politicians, the ADL, the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee push for more and more immigration. I hear people saying we're creating problems."

"I don't worry about being picked on" as a Jew, adds Miller. "I worry about my country." □

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

**Federation hires gay executive, removes barrier to participation**

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In the removal of one more perceived barrier to gays and lesbian participation in Jewish life, one of the nation's largest Jewish federations has hired an openly gay man to serve as its top professional.

Harold Goldman, a longtime and, by many accounts, popular executive vice president of the local Jewish family and children's service, will serve as president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia starting in October.

Goldman, who will be the first openly gay chief executive of a major federation, declined to be interviewed.

Despite the view of some traditional Jews that homosexual activity is forbidden by Jewish law, Philadelphia federation officials and the editor of the federation-owned Jewish Exponent newspaper say there has been no criticism so far of Goldman's appointment.

"From our perspective, his sexual preference is irrelevant," Susan Bodner, the federation's communications director, said, adding that Goldman was chosen for his "leadership qualities."

The issue "wasn't controversial at all at Jewish Family and Children's Services, and we don't expect it to be here," Bodner said.

The appointment of Goldman comes as gay and lesbian Jews are enjoying unprecedented acceptance in the mainstream Jewish community.

The Reform and Reconstructionist movements both ordain openly gay rabbis and support rabbis who officiate at same-sex ceremonies.

And a growing number of Jewish institutions are welcoming the participation of gays and lesbians.

Federations remain the central Jewish philanthropies in local communities, although their fund-raising influence has waned in recent years in the face of competition from secular causes and more specialized Jewish organizations.

As umbrella institutions that aim to serve — and raise funds from — Jews of diverse religious beliefs, federations are often in a tricky position when it comes to including gays and lesbians or embracing any view that might be deemed controversial.

"For the position he occupies, it's no problem as far as I'm concerned," said Rabbi Joshua Toledano, spiritual leader of Mekor Baruch, an Orthodox congregation in suburban Philadelphia.

"I can't condone his behavior because it goes contrary to Jewish law, but it's no different from someone not observing Shabbat," said Toledano.

"If I were to say" that only Sabbath-observant people are acceptable, "I'd be writing off 90 percent of the community," Toledano added.

Some 5 percent of Philadelphia Jewish households identify as Orthodox, according to the city's federation.

The 1990 National Jewish Population Survey found that about 7 percent in the United States as a whole are Orthodox.

Although the federations' national umbrella group, the United Jewish Communities, offers domestic partner benefits to gay and lesbian employees, Philadelphia's federation and many others do

not. Gay activists have criticized federations for not offering such benefits and have complained that many Jewish newspapers, like the Jewish Exponent, do not print wedding announcements for gay couples or personal advertisements by gays and lesbians seeking partners.

The World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Jews — which recently marked its 20th anniversary — launched a survey in 1998 measuring federations' attitudes toward gays and lesbians, but the study was never completed due to lack of funding.

Nonetheless, said Scott Gansl, president of that organization and a member of Philadelphia's gay and lesbian synagogue, the preliminary findings were generally "very positive."

But Gansl said federations in the central and southern parts of the country tended to be less inclusive than those on the East or West Coasts.

Joel Daner, the UJC professional who helps place executives with federations throughout North America, said a candidate's sexual preference has "never been an issue."

"It's not something you ask people," said Daner, the group's vice president for professional resource development.

Jeff Scheckner, a research consultant at the UJC and a longtime employee in the federation world who says that his being openly gay has never posed any problems for him, said he was pleased to learn of Goldman's appointment.

Federations are "generally a good environment for people to be themselves, but it depends on the community," added Scheckner.

Goldman is by no means the first gay executive of a mainstream Jewish organization, said Scheckner, but "some might be in the closet, and others might not want to be mentioned in a newspaper article."

Goldman, said Gansl, is not highly visible in Philadelphia's gay Jewish community.

But he said that during his tenure at the family services agency, Goldman initiated a number of programs serving gays and lesbians and has partnered with local AIDS organizations.

For Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, the Philadelphia regional director of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations and herself a lesbian, the development is momentous.

Just as Sen. Joseph Lieberman's selection as Al Gore's running mate signaled that "now every Jewish kid in America can imagine himself becoming a vice-presidential candidate," she said, Goldman's appointment shows there is "yet one more place in the Jewish community that is open to all Jews."

"It's exciting to see such an appointment in a mainstream, all-American city like Philadelphia," Elwell said, adding that she hopes Goldman will "be able to bring people together who have been unable to come together in the past." □

**'Messianic' remark causes stir**

NEW YORK (JTA) — A Reform rabbi recently told a conference of "messianic Jews" that "it is totally inconsistent and illogical to exclude you," according to the Baltimore Jewish Times newspaper.

However, leaders of the Reform movement said they strongly disagreed with the remarks of Rabbi Dan Cohn-Sherbok, a professor of Judaism at the University of Wales. □